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and to devise a course of laboratory work which shall meet with the approval of everyone concerned, this committee desires the hearty coöperation of all who are in any way interested in this most important work. Since the physical laboratory work in secondary schools is rapidly becoming of such increasing importance, its value being recognized by all, and since Harvard University has taken the lead in outlining a definite preparatory course, the importance of the contemplated revision is obvious. All teachers who are interested in this matter, and who desire to present their views to the Association of Physics Teachers, are invited to communicate with the secretary, A. B. Kimball, English High School, Worcester, Mass.

CURRENT EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE

STUDIES OF CHILDHOOD. XII. UNDER LAW. By JAMES SULLY. *Popular Science Monthly*, November, 1895.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE UNITED STATES. Fourth Paper. By F. W. HEWES. *Harper's Weekly*, November 13, 1895.

RECENT TENDENCIES IN THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN. By MARY R. SMITH. *Popular Science Monthly*, November, 1895.

A GENERATION OF COLLEGE WOMEN. By Miss FRANCES M. ABBOTT, *Forum*, November, 1895.

Shows what the subsequent career, after graduation, has been of more than a thousand women who have graduated from Vassar College since the opening, thirty years ago.

PATERNAL AUTHORITY AND ITS DECLINE. By C. P. SEEDEN. *North American Review*, November, 1895.

THE decline of paternal authority is widespread, but nowhere has there been so great an abandonment of control as in America. In compensation there is, however, a growing belief that "*Le pouvoir paternel est plutôt un devoir qu'un pouvoir.*" In recognition of this principle the cost and care of bringing up a child properly have become so great that there is an increasing sentiment in favor of small families, not only on the part of those who pride themselves upon their enlightened selfishness, but among conscientious people who realize the difficulties of bringing up a child in the way he should go. Save in agricultural communities, children seldom render any efficient service to their parents, and the young person adequately fitted for a profession, in most cases, has cost his parents and institutions of learning not less than fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. This excessive tax upon the head of a household and upon the state suggests the possibility of mistaken zeal in inducing young people to abandon the field of manual labor.

THE NEW OLYMPIC GAMES. By THOMAS JAMES DE LA HUNT. *Lippincott's*, December, 1895,

WHILE athletics are almost daily assuming greater prominence in this complex, end-of-the-century life of ours, and spirited competitions in every branch of sport are continually occurring as incitement to fresh feats of record-breaking, the coming year will witness an event which compels the interest of every classical scholar no less than every athlete,—the first Modern Olympiad, a tournament of strength based upon classic lines, though modified and extended in accordance with advanced ideas of today, so that sprinters and gymnasts, fencers and wrestlers, crack shots and oarsmen, bicyclists and tennis champions, polo experts and gentlemen riders, are all invited to participate. This projected revival of the old Olympic games will be inaugurated at Athens in the spring of 1896, continuing from April 5 to April 15, and is proposed to be the first of a new series, celebrated every four years as were the original games, but differing from them in change of place on each occasion. Despite the power of historic interest attaching to the Peloponnesus, this original arena is somewhat difficult of access for both hemispheres alike, and it is designed by the committee in charge to hold these meetings successively in various great capitals of the Old and New Worlds. Following the inauguration at Athens, the second games will occur in Paris during the exposition of 1900; the third are to be celebrated in New York in 1904; and the fourth, in 1908, will take place, it is thought, in London.

FOREIGN NOTES

SIR JOHN GORST ON SECONDARY EDUCATION. *The Journal of Education* [London], December, 1895.

It is often a far cry from Royal Commission Reports to legislation, but, unless Sir John Gorst's enthusiasm for education has carried him away, the present government do intend to tackle the secondary education problem. Speaking at a School Board music competition, Sir John practically endorsed all the main recommendations of the Commissioners. Here are some of his statements: "We have to collect into one center the separate and conflicting educational departments. We have to create local authorities to supervise and coördinate higher education. We have to complete the ladder from the most elementary to the secondary schools, and thence to the universities. We have to provide better instruction in the art and science of teaching. We have to form a register of teachers, and establish a national system of teachers' pensions." The rest of his speech was just as sound in reference to elementary education. If Sir John Gorst lives up to these utterances of his, then indeed may his name go down to posterity as our first Minister of Education. He has a splendid opportunity. Public opinion is becoming